



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 2015.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Selected Social and Housing Characteristics, Australia, 2001

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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### 2001 Census reveals Australian's cultural diversity

The 2001 Census results released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reveal a nation of rich cultural diversity.

#### Ancestry

There were over 200 different ancestries reported, with up to two ancestries recorded for each person. The most common ancestry was Australian, with 6,739,594 or 35.9% of all people choosing this as one of their responses; next most popular were English (6,358,880 or 33.9%), Irish (1,919,727 or 10.2%), Italian (800,256 or 4.3%) German (742,212 or 4.0%), Chinese (556,554 or 3.0%), Scottish (540,046 or 2.9%) and Greek (375,703 or 2.0%).

#### Birthplace

Just over one fifth of Australia's population (22%) was born overseas, which is about the same as for the 1996 Census. Of those born overseas, the three main countries of birth were United Kingdom 1,036,245 (5.5%), New Zealand 355,765 (1.9%), and Italy 218,718 (1.2%).

There were 2,133,676 people born in Europe (including UK) or 11.2% of the population, 982,519 were born in Asia or 5.2% of the population and Middle East and North Africa accounted for 213,942 people or 1.1% of the population.

Western Australia has the highest proportion of its total population born overseas (27%). New South Wales and Victoria have equal proportions of overseas born people (about 23%), followed by the ACT and South Australia (21% each), Queensland (17%), NT (14%) and Tasmania (10%).

#### Language

Italian, with 353,605 speakers, is the most popular language other than English spoken at home, followed by Greek, 263,717, Cantonese, 225,307, Arabic 209,372, and Vietnamese with 174,236 speakers.

#### Media please note:

**State, capital city, suburban and regional media** - comparisons and rankings for your area are available in the Census publication **Selected Social and Housing Characteristics, Australia** (Cat. No. 2015.0). For those unable to attend the national launch or State/Territory events, a copy is available by emailing [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)

**This site** also has a vast array of 2001 Census data. The website contains a narrative snapshot series, plus basic community profile tables from the local to the national level.

**Ethnic media** - a special language profile for over 70 different languages has been developed for media and is available by facsimile. To receive a profile for your particular language, forward your details (including language of interest, telephone and facsimile numbers) to facsimile (02) 6252 8002 .

**Indigenous media** - A specialised set of indigenous profiles are available on this site.

**2001 Census news file footage** - of census processing and census form destruction has been distributed to major metropolitan and regional TV Newsrooms.

**Stills images** - are available at [www.aapmedianet.com.au](http://www.aapmedianet.com.au) under the 2001 Census category.

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